

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 21, 1985

Published Since 1877

MISSISSIPPIAN IS FOUNDER

The muffin ministry

By Joe Westbury

Every Friday morning Ed Stover and Chuck Schweibinz climb into an old pickup and enter the ministry.

They're not preachers or music directors, or youth workers — Stover makes glass for Owens-Illinois and Schweibinz works for the postal service. But for the past two years the men have been carrying on a community outreach that Mississippian Charles Gordon began.

Gordon, then bivocational pastor of Cumberland Baptist Church in Vineland, N. J., discovered that the Thomas English Muffin Company donated its surplus goods to charities rather than resell them through day-old bakeries. Gordon's secular job was with Volunteers of America, a Christian service organization.

On his recommendation, Cumberland's Baptist Men decided to distribute muffins.

The 100-member congregation has no budget for the ministry so the two

men take it upon themselves to provide the truck and gas for the weekly 50-mile round-trip visit to the bakery warehouse in Cross Keys. About 3,000 packages of muffins are regularly divided between the Vineland, N. J., church and four other charities, said warehouse manager Jim Troy.

After loading the truck bed with a few dozen of the 25-pound trays, Stover and Schweibinz point the "Muffin Truck" back to Vineland and the needy in the community.

As soon as the truck arrives at the Schweibinz home, people begin to show up. One man picks up several trays for distribution to a senior citizen's group. A woman from the congregation gets some for her elderly neighbors.

Massive factory layoffs in the surrounding communities have paralyzed the ability of many breadwinners to adequately provide for their families.

That's where the muffins come in. Gordon, now pastor of Pleasant Grove Church near Laurel, said the muffins sometimes "made the difference between having food on the table and some families going hungry."

Gordon, who also led the Vineland church into a ministry to the mentally retarded, said that getting laypeople involved in local ministry is the key to getting them on fire for the Lord.

On some occasions the Baptist men have used the church van to distribute Spanish gospel tracts with the muffins in Vineland's Hispanic community. Now that Gordon has moved to another pastorate, the muffin ministry continues under the watchcare of Stover and Schweibinz.

"We average picking up 1,000-1,800 packages a week. We don't know how many we'll get until we arrive at the warehouse," Schweibinz explains. On rare occasions, due to overbaking or seasonal sales, the men have been given 2,700 packages and had to make a return trip.

Since the two don't have the time or volunteers to set up an elaborate one-on-one distribution of the baked goods, they rely on community service organizations to help them locate the needy individuals. Even as middleman for these agencies, Stover and Schweibinz still donate about eight hours a week to the project.

The largest single problem occurs when the weekly quota drops below expectations, Stover says. "We depend on 75 trays a week, and it gets tight when we only pick up 39."

"We have one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation due to factory layoffs and a large population of migrant farm workers. Vineland averages 15 to 18 percent on a regular basis," he points out.

Stover's first encounter with hunger dates back to his days as a soldier in Korea. "I couldn't stand to see kids with tin cans rummaging for food in the garbage dump. What we wasted, they ate."

"Seeing that was worse than seeing someone die, to me, because those living were still in their misery."

Those impressions are still with Stover in Vineland.

"I know there are hungry people all over the country who would benefit from a ministry like this."

Joe Westbury writes for the World Mission Journal.

Dialogue called for on biomedical questions

By Tim Fields

WASHINGTON (BP) — Two Southern Baptists speaking on national television have called for increasing dialogue between scientists and religious leaders about biomedical breakthroughs which expand the ability to create and prolong life by artificial means.

Senator Albert Gore Jr. (D-Tenn.) and Harry N. Hollis Jr., director of special moral concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission in Nashville, were among symposium members moderated by ABC News Commentator George Will on "Dimensions."

Panel members discussed the moral, economic and legal implications surrounding such biomedical breakthroughs as artificial heart transplants, use of baboon hearts in humans, new experiments in genetic engineering and reproductive technologies.

"One of the ironies of our century is that the hard sciences have been developing much more rapidly than human ability to accelerate the development of new bioethical structures to guide us in making these difficult decisions," Gore explained. "The issues we are confronted with today may well be pikers compared to the ones soon to confront us as a result of genetic engineering and other related developments."

Gore warned new scientific breakthroughs may even affect one's occupational choices as well as those of their children and grandchildren.

"Scientists are learning how to predict which people are going to have an enhanced risk for which illness," Gore said. "Large employers are now looking for genetic screening tests to find out whether or not people applying for jobs have a slightly increased chance of getting some occupational illness."

"Is it fair to deny a job to that person and that person's children and grandchildren because their genetic heritage gives them a slightly increased risk?" he asked.

"Discussions like this are extremely important if for no other reason than as practice for the new era we are soon going to be con-

fronting as a result of genetic technology," Gore said.

Hollis, editor of the book, *A Matter Of Life And Death*, said biomedical issues of this nature are too important to leave to any one group such as Congress or scientists. "Biomedical decisions of this magnitude must be interdisciplinary decisions based on facts and on moral values," he said. "We must call members of religious communities to become more involved."

Hollis added in the past some religious people have spoken rather dogmatically and without

"Christians . . . cannot let these decisions be determined by marketplace forces."

adequate knowledge and have thus made it more difficult for more informed members of religious communities to offer their insights.

"It is very important for there to be increasing dialogue between the scientific community and the religious communities to look at what is already a revolution and which is going to be a much greater problem in the future," he said. "We also need to inform seminarians about the Judeo-Christian emphasis that human beings work with God in the continuation of creation and, therefore, we should find responsible ways to make life fully human."

Hollis said education about biomedical decision-making offers us great hope for the future, but for now we have to deal with tough decisions as they occur. Christians simply cannot let these decisions be determined by marketplace forces," he said.

The ABC "Directions" program, entitled "Hard Choices — The Biomedical Challenge," was presented in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and other religious organizations. Free transcripts of the program can be secured by writing to "Directions," ABC News, 1926 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023.

Fields writes for the Christian Life Commission.



Ed Stover, left, and Chuck Schweibinz oversee a distribution of muffins to needy individuals in southern New Jersey.

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Volunteers, heroes of missions

Volunteers in Missions Sunday has not been one of the main emphases on Southern Baptists' calendar. As we have struggled with implementing Bold Mission Thrust, however, those volunteers have played an increasingly important role in making a gospel witness available to everyone in the world.

This is the Bold Missions goal that is projected for the year 2000.

Volunteers in Missions Sunday is Feb. 24.

Many volunteers have left Mississippi to go to other states and to other countries to carry a gospel witness since Bold Mission Thrust was initiated in 1977. The greatest numbers have gone to California and Montana in the United States and to Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay in South America. Others have gone to Africa. Sizeable numbers have gone that were never reported, and their efforts have counted for just as much as those that were reported.

Many have gone under official auspices. Others have felt the Lord leading them to strike out on their own, and their efforts have been just as meaningful.

Recently the Baptist Record had a story about a layman from Carson, Sammy Myers, who has just about carried on his own mission board operation because he found a need in Mexico. The Myers family would quickly say that they don't have any claim to fame that would make them any more likely candidates for such an undertaking than anyone else. After I found out about the Myers family, I found that their daughter, Donna Hutchins, is a friend of my daughter, Alice Tyrone, because their son-in-law had grown up with my son-in-law. They are just an ordinary family struggling with the same problems that other families find. They

have found a mission and a ministry, however, and they are at work to do whatever they can to carry out the work that they have found for themselves. They don't view themselves as heroes. They have found a need and are trying to meet it.

Now the Foreign Mission Board has found out about their efforts and is making arrangements to help them carry out the ministry that they have established.

That is what the volunteer program is all about. As Southern Baptists projected the goals for Bold Mission Thrust, it became apparent that if we were to meet it in any way, we would need thousands of volunteers. They have showed up. Perhaps they haven't been available in the numbers that were felt to be needed, but many have come from some unexpected sources and have provided unexpected results.

Mississippi Baptists have been paired with California Baptists in the United States and with Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay in South America. Our first volunteers to go to South America were Perry and Mary Sanderford. Perry was in the oil scout business when he went to the Rio de la Plata. Now he is a ministerial student at Mississippi College. Then Mary became a heroine as she became the family's source of income as a school teacher. She already has a master's degree from Mississippi College. Additional help was soon available, for the Days Inn Foundation found out about Perry and provided a grant. Also he recently was called as

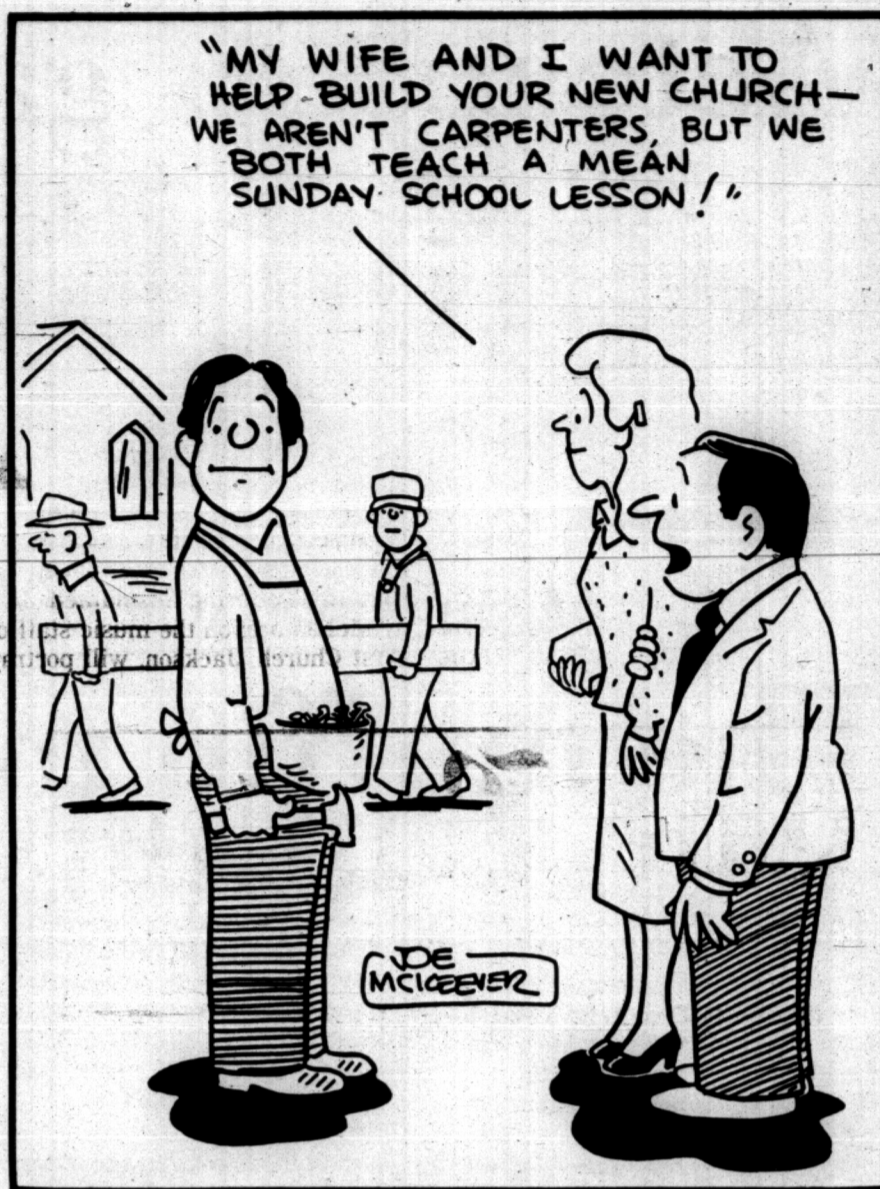
interim minister of youth at Pinelake Church, where the Sanderfords are members.

Another volunteer ministering in the United States has been Floyd Lewis of First Church, Brandon, who, along with his wife, a nurse, has worked with the Home Mission Board as a volunteer. Lewis is a civil engineer in design and construction, both commercial and industrial. He has been a deacon since 1938 and said he had occupied every position in a church that a layman can hold. He has helped to start four churches.

The Home Mission Board assigned the Lewises to an inner city mission in downtown Tulsa, Okla. They use a 35-foot Avion trailer for their housing and pull it with a half-ton Chevrolet Suburban. They hooked up their trailer at a house renovated for summer missionaries and found the area populated by white, black, Indian, and Mexican people. In addition to Lewis' renovation work, Mrs. Lewis worked in a shelter for abused women.

In addition to two such work trips to Tulsa, the Lewises were scheduled to assist a mission pastor in Casa Grande, Ariz., to work with Indians and Mexicans in a depressed housing area.

Many Mississippians have been to California to help in church construction, to conduct music seminars, and for other types of ministry. Many have been to the Rio de la Plata, including the Mississippi Singing Churchmen and a basketball team. Mrs. Clyde Nettles, who recently retired from the



business office of the Baptist Building, has been in Uruguay for months.

Hundreds more are scheduled to go to Uruguay and Argentina in April, May, and June for evangelism crusades. This will be the climax of the entire partnership arrangement with the Rio de la Plata. The churches

down there are expecting us. Many more are needed to go.

On Volunteers in Missions Sunday Feb. 24, be a volunteer. And a good place to start is to sign up to participate in the Uruguay and Argentina evangelism crusade in April, May, and June. The fate of many lost souls is hanging on these decisions.

Guest opinion . . .

Could it be?

By Brooks H. Wester

Could it be possible that in all the events occurring within the fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention that have caught the attention of the journalists of both the religious and secular press, there is an all important dimension of being a follower of Jesus Christ that has been neglected, or totally forgotten? An understanding of Southern Baptists leads one to the conclusion that they all say they believe the Bible is God's perfect Word for man, and that it is "truth without any mixture of error," or "inerrant," if you prefer. Yet, the actions of some would indicate they do not fully believe those sections of sacred Scripture that speak of God's judgment and attitude toward persons whose behavior is hurtful to other persons and his kingdom on earth.

Just one example: Could it be that some have overlooked Proverbs 6:16-19? God's Word, "without any mixture of error," or, "inerrant," reads in the King James translation: "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that

speakech lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." Could it be that in "The Battle For The Bible" some of us have forgotten that the truths of the Book apply to us as well as the rest of the world?

Could it be that in our zeal to preach Jesus Christ as Savior of the world we have failed to reproduce the patterns of his teachings and example in the tapestries of our lives? Jesus taught some wedding guests who were busily seeking the best seats, "When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; and when he that bade thee cometh, he may say to thee, Friend, go up higher; then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted (Luke 14:7-11 KJV)." Jesus also taught, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul (Mark 8:36 KJV)?"

Our world desperately needs to hear the message of salvation that is in Jesus Christ, and him only. It also desperately cries out for living examples of salvation in the Christ-like behavior of those who claim to have been saved. In these times Southern Baptists are right to seek doctrinal purity, yet we also need to guard against being doctrinally pure with our demeanor polluted.

Could it be that we have claimed to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and yet the courses of our lives have been set in directions the Bible declares the Spirit does not walk? The Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle Paul to write: "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:14-16 KJV)." He wrote further: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law (Galatians 5:22-23 KJV)."

Could it be that Southern Baptists are in need of making our perfor-

mance as Christians measure up to the professions of our faith in the Bible being God's Word, Christ being our Savior and Lord, and the Holy Spirit being our Comforter and Guide? A place of new beginning can be in repenting of our failures to be all that Christ redeemed us to become, and then pledging ourselves to obeying his new commandment: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye love one another (John 13:34-35 KJV)."

Brooks H. Wester, who retired as pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg, now lives in Missouri City, Texas.

Porn bounces back

WHEATON, ILL. (EP) — A 7-Eleven convenience store in Wheaton took pornographic magazines from its racks in response to protests organized by local churches including Baptists; but the Southland Corporation, parent company of 7-Eleven, has taken the store back from its local manager, and returned pornographic magazines to its shelves.

The Baptist Record

(ISSN-0005-5778)

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Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance.

Published weekly except week of July 4 and Christmas.

Second Class Postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi.

The Baptist Record is a member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

Journal of

The Mississippi Baptist Convention

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President

Earl Kelly

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Volume 109

Number 3

Acteens to gather on coast

The first Mississippi Baptist Acteens Convention of the 80s will take place May 3-5 at First Baptist Church, Gulfport. Sessions begin at 7:30 p.m., May 3 and conclude at 10 a.m., May 5.



Sample of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, and there will be a special excerpt performance of the musical "Lottie



McLemore and **Solomon** D," concerning the life of Lottie Moon, the foreign missionary for whom the Christmas offering was named. Jenny McLemore, on the music staff of First Church, Jackson, will portray

Miss Moon in the musical.

Other featured speakers include Marti Solomon, Acteens consultant with WMU, SBC; Sue McAllister, youth leader from Tupelo; and a number of missionaries.

These missionary speakers include James and Mary Slack, Philippines; Mrs. Margie Mines, Argentina; and Carol Fairley, special project nurse to Ghana.

Besides the speakers there will be music, worship times, and small group conferences on youth issues, and Acteens methods.

D. P. Smith, Acteens consultant for Mississippi WMU, noted special instructions for pre-registering for the convention. Leaders must send names of leaders and girls and \$5.50 per person to Acteens Convention, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205. A minimum of one adult leader for each seven girls is required.

Said Miss Smith, "We took about 1,130 Acteens to the national convention in Ft. Worth last year and we'd love to see it happen again on our own shore." Miss Smith estimates there are between 6-7,000 Acteens in the state.

Mississippi BSU appoints 72

The state Student Missions Committee of Mississippi Baptist Student Union has appointed 72 students to serve as 1985 student missionaries. This is the largest number of students appointed since the program began in 1947. Students will be serving in six foreign countries and 27 of the United States. More details will appear in next week's Baptist Record.

Thailand plans limit on number of missionaries

BANGKOK, Thailand (BP) — The government interior ministry has indicated plans to limit the number and activities of foreign missionaries in Thailand.

The plans don't seem to be leveled directly at the 79 Southern Baptist missionaries there, but it remains unclear how their work will be affected, according to Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials.

The government singled out missionaries of the Mormon Church, who number 200 of the some 3,000 foreign missionaries in Thailand. The Mormons often have asked to stay in the country for extended periods, but the Ministry of Interior is considering limiting their stay to no more than three months at a time, a government official said.

Some missionaries have been accused of bringing hilltribe people into Thailand from neighboring Burma and giving them money if they become Christians.

"Some of the missionaries have created problems and, in some cases, have even become a public nuisance due to their zealotry in spreading their religion's belief," said the official.

The Mormons have publicly denied charges against their missionaries.

Maxine Stewart, Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Thailand, lauded the officially Buddhist nation for its stance on religious freedom.

FMB gifts here are highest

The largest amount ever given in one month to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions was tallied in January by Mississippi Baptists, according to Marjean Patterson, Woman's Missionary Union director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The total for January was \$2,483,273.67, beating gifts for January of 1984 which totaled \$2,067,941.20.

The Foreign Mission Board's fiscal year for this offering which goes directly to the foreign mission field is June-May. Mississippi's gifts since last June total \$2,702,651.63, prompting Miss Patterson to note that she is "really optimistic that \$3.75 million is not out of our reach." The record giving in the annual foreign mission offering by Mississippi Baptist churches was \$3.5 million and that was only last year.

The Baptist Record

Dallas, June 11-13

SBC features prayer times, more business

DALLAS (BP)—Prayer times at each session and expanded business time are features of the program for the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-13 at the Dallas Convention Center.

The program, released by Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, a Mississippian, and chairman of the committee on order of business, has the theme of "Pray ye therefore. . . ." "The scriptural theme is a call to prayer and to mission which has the potential to grip the heart of every person attending the convention with an overwhelming burden for the unsaved," Chapman said.

One of the highlights of the three-day annual meeting of the 14.3 million member denomination, according to Chapman is "small group prayer sessions which have been inserted into almost every session." The 15-minute prayer time, he said, were added at the request of SBC President Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta.

"He asked that we insert this special time for prayer. He (Stanley) is very conscious of God's people collectively praying for God's will and God's power," Chapman added.

Another feature, he said, is more time for business. "Messengers (to previous conventions) had expressed a desire to have a relatively unlimited amount of time for discussion of any issue," Chapman said. "The commitment of the committee has been to provide that kind of time."

Chapman added he is not predicting the convention will be rancorous, say-

ing he believes "it is totally unpredictable at this time. We (the committee) were simply trying to respond to the expressed desires of messengers. We did not make this decision based on anticipation (of much business)."

One way in which the business time has been expanded has been to start the sessions a half hour earlier, Chapman said. Another has been the elimination of a theme interpretation at every session. Instead, there will be one theme interpretation, delivered at the Tuesday evening meeting.

Tom Elliff, pastor of Applewood Church, Denver, will deliver the interpretation. Elliff, a former Oklahoma pastor, served briefly on the foreign mission field before having to return to the United States because of family health reasons.

"We felt Tom Elliff personified as much as any man the dual emphasis on prayer and missions," Chapman said. "He has been to the mission field, has a great mission heart and is a man who has put a great emphasis on prayer during his entire ministry. We felt his life gave strong emphasis of Matthew 9:38 (the scriptural text of the program theme)," Chapman added.

The strong emphasis on prayer and missions will be carried through Tuesday and Wednesday nights, with presentations by the Foreign Mission Board (Tuesday) and the Home Mission Board (Wednesday). "We expect those to be extraordinary nights of inspiration and strong statements about Bold Mission Thrust," Chapman said.

He added there will be no business

following the presentations, allowing messengers to depart "on a note of inspiration. We hope we will be able to leave the hall each night rejoicing over the great missions advance we have been able to make throughout the world."

Chapman said there will be a business session Wednesday evening but added "it will be in advance of the Home Mission Board presentation."

"Also, each evening Bill Reynolds (convention music director) will begin singing choruses as we are dismissed as a reminder that even when we are having business our ultimate intent is just to praise the Lord," Chapman said.

The convention program also will feature the annual presidential address by Stanley and the convention sermon by Charles Fuller, pastor of First Church, Roanoke, Va.

Oglesby joins MBCB Church Training staff

Shirley Ann Oglesby of Clinton, 48, has been elected to the staff of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. She will begin work March 11 as preschool and children's consultant in the Church Training Department, according to Mose Dangerfield, department director. She replaces Miss Evelyn



George who retired.

Mrs. Oglesby has been for the past ten years administrator of the preschool division at Parkway Baptist Church in Jackson. She has also taught elementary school and kindergarten.

A graduate of California State University, Sonoma, she earned the master of education degree from Mississippi College and the doctor of education degree from Jackson State University.

A widow, Mrs. Oglesby has two grown children. She is a native of Brandon and grew up in Puckett.

At the Convention Board, Mrs. Oglesby will also work with the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department in providing consultative services in the area of daycare work. The work with mentally retarded which formerly was in Church Training, has been moved to the Sunday School Department, where Billy Hudgens will relate to that work.

Baptist foreign board names 43 journeymen for 21 nations

RICHMOND, Va. — Southern Baptists commissioned 43 new journeymen Feb. 8 for work in 21 countries during the next two years. Two are from Mississippi.

The journeymen, all college graduates age 26 and under, will work alongside career missionaries, handling assignments ranging from youth evangelism to social and medical ministries.

The Mississippians are Talitha Edwards of Grenada, who will serve in Korea, and Beth Watkins of Moselle, who will serve in Japan.

The group represents the 21st to be commissioned by the Foreign Mission Board since the program was begun in 1965. The journeymen come from 16 states.

African rain follows prayer, reports FMB President Parks

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Reports of rain in two African countries offer evidence God is beginning to answer the prayers of Southern Baptists and other Christians. R. Keith Parks told the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Feb. 13.

Missionaries in Zimbabwe, one of some 30 African countries hard hit by drought, say they've had the best rain in 13 years, the board's president reported. Rain also has increased in South Africa.

"We take that as the beginning of an answer to the prayers being offered," Parks said.

Last year the board sent more than \$4 million in hunger relief aid to African countries and is gearing up this year for a \$1 million relief program in Ethiopia, in addition to aid to other nations. But board officials say even the combined efforts of all relief programs can't do as much to wipe out starvation as normal rains would in countries hit by three to five years of drought.

In other major actions, Parks set forth seven strategic priorities for the board in the next three years and board members pledged their personal support for the denomination's Planned Growth in Giving stewardship emphasis.

The board president laid special stress on the No. 1 objective to "implement cooperative approaches to world evangelization with interested Baptist bodies."

Parks and other members of an international Baptist steering committee have invited "sister Baptist bodies" in about 30 countries to send representatives to a June 26-28 meeting in connection with the Foreign Missions Conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Representatives of Baptist conventions with which Southern Baptists work overseas will pay their own way to attend, Parks emphasized.

As other priorities, Parks listed:

—Look at the role of the mission organization and study deployment or redeployment of missionaries for most effective use;

—Consider more effective ways to be involved in lands where normal mission activity is prohibited or restricted;

—Develop a data base from which

better management decisions can be made;

—Establish percentage ranges for the board's four major budget divisions: missionary support, overseas operating, overseas capital and home office;

—Integrate the increased involvement of state convention partnerships overseas and other Southern Baptist volunteers to enhance a unified and indigenous mission effort;

—Work with the Home Mission Board and other agencies in identifying matters of mutual concern, such as international student or seamen's ministries, and develop a plan to work together more effectively in such areas.

Parks said the way Southern Baptist members and their churches respond to the new Planned Growth in Giving emphasis will determine how far the denomination can go toward reaching its Bold Mission Thrust goal of sharing the gospel with all people by the year 2000.

Forty-seven board members, about

80 percent of those attending the meeting, turned in cards pledging to increase their giving by a certain percentage in each of the next 15 years.

During the meeting the board named 41 new missionaries, reappointed six and heard reports on the commissioning of 43 journeymen Feb. 8.

Two medical consultants also were added to its staff. Van W. Williams III, a Mississippi missionary pediatrician and administrator at Bangalore (India) Baptist Hospital, was named health care consultant responsible for advising staffers and missionaries on health care programs and strategy around the world (see separate story). Joyce A. DeRidder of Michigan will be consultant for health care recruitment. At Houston (Texas) Baptist University she designed and directed a missionary internship program and helped design the Center for Exploring Ministry Careers.

Stanley writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

Jaroy Weber, former SBC president, dies in Texas

DALLAS (BP) — Jaroy Weber, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and a pastor for more than 40 years, died Feb. 6. He was 64.



Weber

Weber, who surrendered to the ministry at the age of 12, was pastor of Little Cypress Baptist Church, and North Orange, both in Orange, Texas; First, West Monroe, La.; First Beaumont, Texas; Dauphin Way, Mobile, Ala., and First, Lubbock, Texas.

Before he was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1974, Weber was president of the SBC Pastors' Conference.

He earned the bachelor of arts degree from Louisiana College and the bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth. He also received the doctor of divinity degree from Louisiana College.

Memorial services were at Prestonwood Church, Dallas, where Weber's son, Bill, is pastor. Warren Hultgren, pastor of First, Tulsa, officiated.

Weber is survived by his widow, Nettie, and three children.

Native becomes FMB medical consultant

Mississippi native Van Williams III, 42, has been named health care consultant for the Southern Baptist



Williams

Foreign Mission Board, effective May 1. He will advise staff members and missionaries on health care programs and strategy around the world.

Since 1974, the Williams Mississippi College graduate has been a pediatrician at Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India, and administrator there since 1980.

Williams, who was born in Columbus and lived in West Point and Pontotoc, earned his medical degrees from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson; attended Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth; and received the master of public health degree from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

Williams served in the U.S. Navy as a pediatrician, and while a medical student, he worked in various medical jobs. He and his wife, Sarah McGlamery Williams of Houston, Tex., served as Baptist Student Union summer missionaries to Zimbabwe.



Baptists oppose betting bill

Mississippi Baptists offered their opinions on a pari-mutuel betting bill (HB 434) last week when the Senate Finance Committee held hearings. Feb. 11. More than 300 Mississippi Baptists, mostly laypersons alerted by the Mississippi Christian Action Commission, traveled to Jackson to protest the bill. It passed the committee, but failed in the full Senate Thursday 27-21. However, the bill was allowed to be placed back on the calendar for reconsideration and that new vote may take place any time between now and March 14, according to Paul Jones, director of the Mississippi Christian Action Commission, which continues to monitor the situation. Another gambling bill which would have allowed a statewide lottery, (SCR 501), died in the Legislature for this year. In the photo, the Baptists walk toward the Capitol from the Baptist Building.

Evangelism/Bible sessions are rescheduled for March

The Mississippi Baptist Evangelism/Bible Conference, postponed because of icy conditions in February, has been rescheduled for March 11-12, at First Church, Greenville, with much of the original program intact.

The main difference in the new program is that it will begin and end several hours earlier. The program will now begin at 1:30 p.m., Monday afternoon, March 11, instead of that evening as originally planned. And the conference will conclude Tuesday

evening instead of Wednesday noon.

Of the plenary speakers, only Perry Sanders, pastor of First Church, Lafayette, La., will not be able to speak because of a prior commitment. In his place will be Jack Stanton, an evangelist from Bolivar, Mo.

Malcolm McDow, Charles Fuller, Ron Lewis, and Bill Glass remain on the program as scheduled originally. Music leaders and details about the program will be in next week's Baptist Record.

COM plans state, nat'l rallies

Mississippi Campers on Mission will hold their spring rally March 29-30 at the Central Fairgrounds in Kosciusko. This campground is where the organization will host the National Campers on Mission Rally this summer.

The summer rally, June 21-23, will be bringing in campers from all over the country and Mississippi hosts will be making final plans during the March meeting. Activities for the summer rally will begin on June 19, and Mississippi Campers on Mission will be on hand beginning June 17. Mae Price is national rally coordinator.

The spring rally in March will feature members Terry and Delphy Cross, who will speak on a volunteer mission trip they took to Honduras last spring.

Campers on Mission is a state and national organization of Christian campers, under Baptist sponsorship, who offer a witness to other campers and organize volunteer mission work.

To register for the national rally, write Mae Price, Rt. 10, Box 468, Columbus, Miss., 39702.

The Kosciusko campground has a special shaded area with facilities, for tenters.

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BR2

23 church planters commissioned by HMB

By Michael Tutterow

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP) — The gospel must be central to achieve church growth, a missions leader has reminded a group of church planter apprentices.

Gerald B. Palmer, vice-president for missions for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, offered tips on church growth to church planter apprentices at their commissioning service.

The 23 church planter apprentices were commissioned by the Home Mission Board Jan. 27 in a special service at Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church in Riverside, Calif. The missionaries will begin churches in California, Hawaii, and Nevada during the next two years.

The early church grew because its leaders relied on power from God's Spirit, noted Palmer. The power to be on mission already has been given to Christians today, Palmer told the group. "God's Spirit is with you even unto the ends of California, Nevada and Winnemucca," he added, referring to the missionaries' places of service.

The message of Christ's virgin birth, sinless life, sacrificial death, resurrection, and second coming are central themes the early church pro-

claimed as the good news, Palmer said, and though methods may differ, "If you do not preach (these themes), nothing else is valid."

Church growth results from church members caring for one another, he continued, pointing out the early church grew when each person was considered important.

Palmer warned against tending to church concerns to the exclusion of missions outreach. "Southern Baptists were born in missions, we survived in missions, and we have grown through missions," he said. "Without missions we will die. And your church will die if you do not reach out beyond yourself."

The commissioning service, only the second such service specifically for church planters, was held in California to coincide with the state's emphasis on church starting. Of the 23 missionaries commissioned, California will receive 17.

The church planters, their home states and place of service included Phillip and Terri Badley, Mississippi/Kentucky, Canyon County, Calif. and Randy and Susan Wilson, both of Mississippi, Chatsworth, Calif.

Tutterow writes for HMB.

S. Baptists greet year with records in giving

By Craig Bird

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptists greeted the first quarter of the 1984-85 fiscal year with record levels of giving to their worldwide mission and education programs.

October-December gifts to the national Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist Convention's voluntary, unified budget, were \$27,949,117. That was 9.58 percent more than the first quarter contributions in 1983-84 — an increase of more than \$2.4 million.

The receipts are distributed on a percentage basis approved by messengers to the annual meeting of the SBC to 20 SBC agencies. One-half of all CP contributions go to the Foreign Mission Board, 19.7 percent goes to the Home Mission Board and another 20.6 percent is shared by the six SBC seminaries.

The basic operating budget for the national SBC agencies for 1984-85 through the Cooperative Program is \$118 million. Over the past five years first quarter CP receipts have been 22 to 23 percent of the yearly total. The October-December 1984 figure is 23.7 percent of the \$118 million goal. (That translates to being \$1,550,000 short of the pro rata budget figures for three months. — Editor.)

The main reason for the excitement, he explained, is Planned Growth In Giving, an ambitious effort to: (1) increase the percentage of giving by individual Southern Baptists to their local church; (2) increase the percentage of giving by local SBC churches to their associations and state conventions, and (3) increase the percentage of giving by state conventions to the

national Cooperative Program.

If goals, which have been termed "conservative" by Planned Growth In Giving Director Cecil Ray, are met, by the year 2000 Southern Baptists will be giving \$20 billion a year to support mission and educational work at their church, their association, and their state and national conventions.

Not coincidentally, 2000 AD is the target year for Southern Baptists to complete Bold Mission Thrust — an effort to make sure every living human being on earth has heard the gospel of Jesus Christ and had an opportunity to respond to it.

Of the 35 state conventions cooperating with the SBC, 32 gave more through the national Cooperative Program in 1984-85 than in the same period last year — and 17 are more than 10 percent ahead of their 1983-84 pace. Also, 14 state conventions already have given more than \$1 million, three are above the \$2 million mark and one — Texas — gave more than \$4.8 million.

Craig Bird is Baptist Press feature editor.

Homecomings

Forest Church, Forest: June 23; Homecoming Day; fellowship, reminiscing, and "dinner on the ground." "Every effort will be made to contact every former member, former staff member, and other interested friends and relatives of the Forest Church family," said Selma Rushing, Chairman, Homecoming Activities.



The NWMJC BUS group which traveled to Houston, Tex., included (front row L to R) Charlie Mae Smith — Tunica, Mary Creasy — W. Memphis, Arkansas, Margie Weeks — Pittsboro, Staci Thomas — Charleston, Margaret Walthal — Horn Lake. Back L to R: Rick Alford, B.S.U. Director, Jerry Eubanks — Senatobia, Max Lindsey — Sarah, Phelan Nichols — Olive Branch, James Anderson — Mt. Pleasant.

Students fail to 'save' Houston, but not for lack of hard work

On January 6, 1985 nine students at Northwest Mississippi Junior College and their Baptist Student Union director, Rick Alford, left the snow covered hills on a trek that would change their perspectives concerning people and Christian mission work. This group was assigned to work in the inner city portion of Houston, Texas. Their work was in conjunction with the Baptist Mission Centers which are run by Mildred McWhorter of the Home Mission Board.

The nine students who represented Northwest were Jerry Eubanks, Phelan Nichols, James Anderson, Max Lindsey, Margie Weeks, Staci Thomas, Charlie Mae Smith, Margaret Walthal, and Mary Creasy. Orientation for the week consisted of ten weeks of Bible Study, craft preparation and fund raising.

The students left the Senatobia campus prepared to lead 27 Bible studies and 45 handicrafts.

The students were immediately assigned to sorting clothes and toys donated to the centers during Christmas. This, along with sorting bread, shoes, and food, and general cleaning, would become a daily activity. They soon discovered that to do mission work, you must literally get your "hands dirty." The week of work, Jan. 7-11, also included three days in which the students worked with "children clubs." During these times they were leading Bible studies and craft periods with the children who came to the centers after school.

"All-in-all the week in Houston was good for our students," said Alford. "They learned that missions involves a variety of hard work, from teaching Bible stories to little children to making unbearable conditions bearable. I think that the best aspect of the trip was in living in the ghetto for a week. Seeing the conditions in which some people live is startling and heart-breaking."

"This group left Mississippi with a grandiose idea of 'saving' Houston in a week, only to return tired and maybe a bit disillusioned. But they returned with memories of an experience which in time will change their lives."

"I think," Alford continued, "that they saw that in all people, regardless of race, creed, or economic conditions, there is a basic need for God, and that his love transcends all situations."

Carey homecoming moves to March

HATTIESBURG — William Carey College homecoming takes on a new look this year as the traditional event moves from April to March and expands to two days.

Homecoming '85, scheduled for March 1-2, kicks off Friday night with the Crusaders taking on Spring Hill College in a NAIA District 30 basketball contest. Crowning of the homecoming queen and presentation of the homecoming court will be featured at halftime.

Saturday's events include an open house at the biology department's new greenhouse and a coffee fellowship sponsored by the Greenhouse Fund trustees. Presentation of the new Carey Alumni Association officers, Outstanding Alumnus Award, and Class Attendance Award will follow.

After the alumni luncheon, tours will be provided through recently-renovated Johnson and Ross Halls and Carey's baseball team will play Delta State University in a doubleheader at Morgan Field. A reception for the Alumnus of the Year will close out Homecoming activities at 2 p.m.

Registration fee is \$7, which includes the Saturday luncheon and admission to both ball games. Tickets may be purchased upon arrival but reservations must be made. For more information contact the William Carey College Alumni Officer at (601) 582-5051.

Mt. Vernon Leflore, burns

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church (Leflore Association) burned to the ground Jan. 11. "They plan to rebuild," reported Gerald Welch, Leflore director of missions who is filling in at the pulpit presently.

Services were being held at First Church, Minter City on Sunday afternoons. Welch said the single, T-shaped building had about \$70,000 worth of insurance.

Pastor Allen Robinson had just resigned to go to college shortly before the fire.

Welch reported the fire was likely caused by faulty wiring.

Kindergarten/Day Care Clinic set

A Kindergarten/Day Care Clinic, set for March 2 at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, will include sessions on "Sexual Abuse Among Children."

Julius Thompson, director of the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which sponsors the event, said the conference will be addressing the issue "because this whole question of child abuse and molestation of children has become a national issue."

The conference, coordinated by Kaye Keeton, who teaches kindergarten/day care work at Jones County Junior College, begins at 8 a.m., March 2, with registration. The program starts at 8:30, and concludes at 4 p.m.

The plenary session concerning moral and spiritual development of children will be led by Ray Evett, a Church Administration consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Simultaneous conferences, allowing participants to choose four, take up most of the day. Topics include fingerplays and action songs; water play/sand play; ideas for activities; how to assess developmental levels; teach while you eat, make it/take it and fun and games.

Julie Knight, kindergarten/day care director at the host church, will welcome participants.

To register for the conference, it is necessary to use a form from the office of Julius Thompson, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205. A \$10 fee is required to cover materials and lunch.

Beauty is truth, truth beauty. — John Keats

A gem is not polished without rubbing, nor a man perfect without trials.

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Who Cares?

My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.
(1 John 3:18 TEV)

Week of Prayer for Home Missions
March 3-10, 1985



L'Nola Hall Cares!—Under home-missionary L'Nola Hall's guidance Atlanta's Stewart Center provides a gymnasium and playground for neighborhood children. (HMB photo)



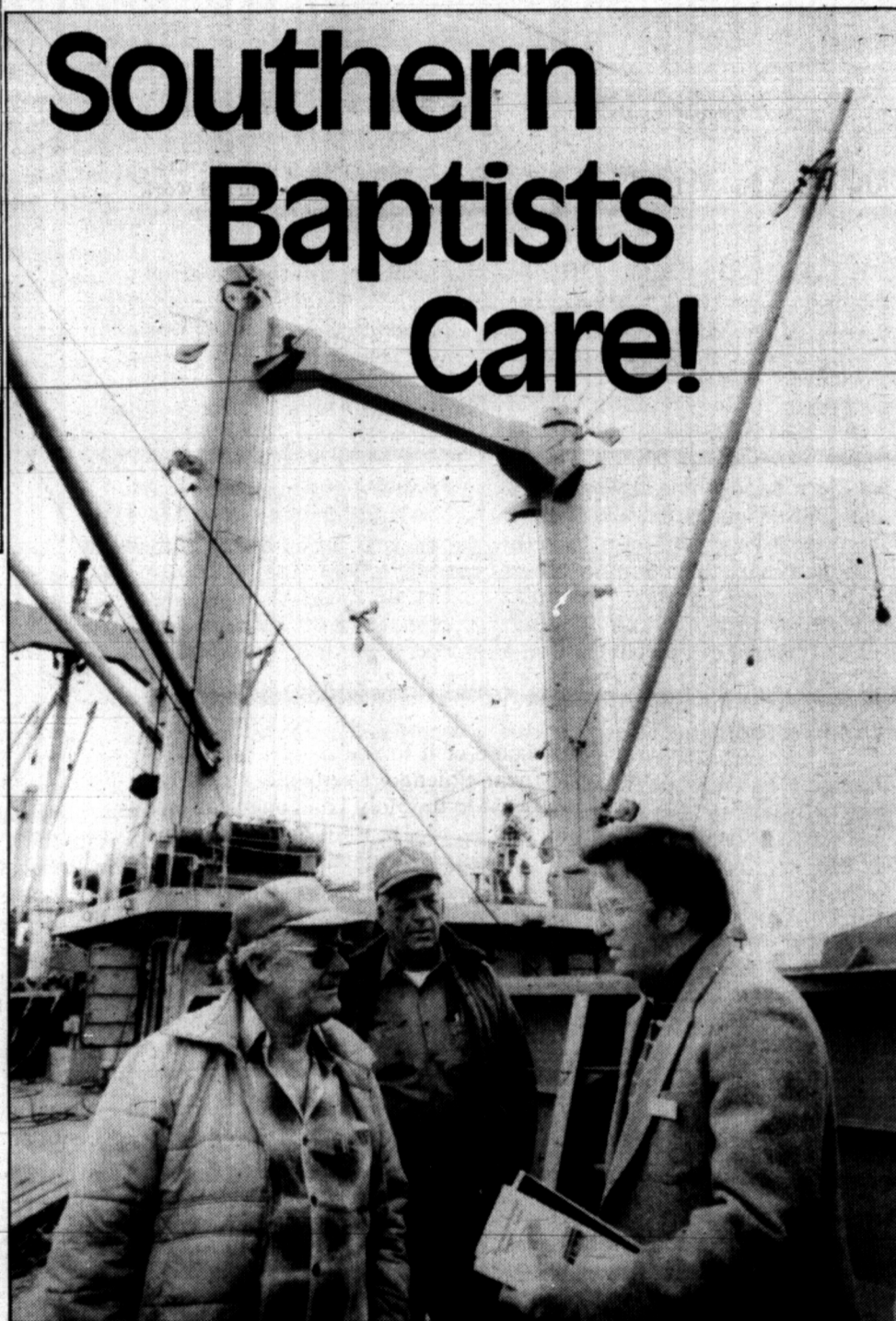
John Kasa Cares!—Home missionary John Kasa's Polish heart yearns for other Polish Americans in Cleveland, Ohio, to accept Christ as their Saviour. (HMB photo)

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
National Goal: \$30,000,000



Ken Brooks Cares!—Home missionary Ken Brooks has found community involvement is the key to starting new churches in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. (HMB photo)

Southern Baptists Care!



Don Wells Cares!—Don Wells, Southern Baptist chaplain to the Houston seaport, meets the world without ever leaving Texas. (HMB photo)

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

Evelyn Manning Burke

The telephone rang one morning in the office of the Christian Action Commission, on fourth floor of the Baptist Building. The (then) director, Clark Hensley, answered.

"I can't come to work today," said the voice of his secretary, Evelyn Burke. "I'm in the hospital."

"What in the world is the matter?" "I fell out of a tree."

Dr. Hensley started laughing. But instead of being mad at him for his lack of sympathy, Evelyn started laughing, too. That's a good example of the sense of humor she has, the kind that kept her going at an even-tempered pace through eight years of work with Hinds Baptist Association and 18 years with Mississippi Baptists' Christian Action Commission as administrative assistant. During 23 of those years, Dr. Hensley was her boss. (He was director of missions for Hinds Association when she worked there.) For the past three years, she has worked with Paul Jones, current director of the CAC. She retired on Jan. 31.

I remember the two-story house that stood on the corner of Mississippi and President streets, where the Baptist Building is. Hinds County Baptists' offices were in that house for a while. Evelyn, 5'1", blue eyes, light brown hair, was employed there, along with Dr. Hensley and Altie Grubb and Kathryn Jasper, BSU director for non-Baptist colleges in the area.

Recently, on the night of January 15, Dr. Hensley and his wife, Margaret, gave Evelyn a retirement party. Then on January 31, Paul Jones and the Christian Action Commission gave a reception in the Sky Room in her honor. I missed that, because I was in Goodman that day, but I understand that Lloyd Luncford's part on the program was nothing less than hilarious. Baptist Building employees' gift to Evelyn was a broach watch.

"In all those years of working together," Dr. Hensley told me, "we had no hassles or temper losses



whatever. She is disciplined. She is a compassionate person, understanding of others' needs." One time he tried to decrease the amount of counseling he was doing. "But Evelyn wouldn't let me. She would hear a person's story, feel sorry for that person, and say 'Maybe he'll have time to see you' or ask me, 'Can't you see for a few minutes?'"

He added, "She is fiercely loyal to her church, her family, her work. In order to be as effective in her career as she has been, she needed the support of her family — and she has had that."

For 45 years, ever since she moved to Jackson, she has belonged to Calvary Church. For over 30 of those years, she has taught six-year-olds in Sunday School, or directed the six-year department, her "favorite age

group." In Church Training, she taught seven-year-olds. In Baptist Women, she has held "most every office."

Ruth Evelyn — that's what they used to call her when she was growing up — was baptized at Drew Baptist Church at age 10. She was a Manning then, born at Drew. In fact, her father's name was Archie Manning. (Her mother was Eula.) The ball-playing Archie Manning is her cousin. Both Archies were named for the same man. Evelyn's grandfather, Elisha, had a brother named Archie. Her father, who died when Evelyn was four, was named for that uncle. Her Great-uncle Archie was the famous Archie's grandfather. Got that straight? Also, Kathy Manning, the current Miss Mississippi, is a cousin of Evelyn's.

Evelyn was graduated from Drew High School and studied at Blue Mountain College for two years. At Drew she met Ralph Burke, who was working in the barbershop. Their first date? "We probably walked to the movie," she supposed. "He didn't have a car then." They got married Nov. 12, 1939. After they moved to Jackson, he owned a barbershop here. Later he opened a sporting goods store — Burke's Shooting Supplies. In their early years, before she started work in the office of Calvary Church and then at Hinds Association and the Christian Action Commission, she and Ralph loved to fish. Once a week, he'd close the store and they'd go fishing.

Four years ago, in 1981, Ralph died, only a few days after the death of Evelyn's only sister, Marian Morgan, in Memphis.

Both her sons-in-law are named Bill. Eva Rose, who married Bill Brown, lives in the Chicago area. Their children are Chris and Stephanie. Debbie and her husband, Bill Easley, and their son, Corey, live in Jackson.

Evelyn has been, and is, a good friend of mine. One interest we share is the love of travel; she says she'll be doing a lot of that now, she expects — some of it to see the grandchildren near Chicago. I remember that she went to the Holy Land one year on a tour led by Dr. Hensley, and she flew to Germany to visit Eva Rose when her Bill was a lieutenant colonel in the army. Once she talked about going to Brazil with me to visit her nephew, Billy Morgan, who was a missionary there for a good many years, and is now pastor of Wells Station Church in Memphis, but that trip didn't materialize.

When she's home (4840 Gaylyn Drive, Jackson, phone 922-9210), she reads a lot and sews a little.

"This is the day the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). "That is my favorite verse," she told me, "one I always say during my morning devotional time. When I would get in the car to leave for work, I would say it again." To me, that shows the confident, calm, joyous, strong-in-faith type of person she is.



At her retirement party in the Baptist Building, Evelyn Burke greets her daughter, Debbie Easley; her grandson, Corey, age 2½; and a guest, Calvin Batson.

Israeli congregation harassed, barred from rented building

By David Smith

REHOVOT, Israel (BP) — A congregation of Jewish believers in Christ in Rehovot, Israel, has been barred from worshiping in its rented building by a city government injunction.

The group, Grace and Truth Assembly, says it also has been harassed by extremist Orthodox Jews.

The city of Rehovot contends the congregation, which operates a small publishing house, is in an area zoned strictly as residential. Pastor Baruch Moaz says the building formerly housed a kindergarten and reports International Business Machines competed with the assembly to rent the facility. Synagogues and rabbinical schools also operate in the vicinity, he adds.

A city spokesman claims the congregation's presence in the neighborhood has caused a disturbance. Extremist Orthodox Jews have protested against the congregation since it moved to the new location last November, he adds.

"This is not a unique incident," said Ray Hicks, administrator for Southern Baptist representatives in Israel. Harassment of Jewish believers also has been reported in Ashkelon, Jerusalem, Tiberias, Nahariya, Netanya, and Tel Aviv.

Rehovot is a city of about 50,000 people 12 miles south of Tel Aviv. Southern Baptist representatives David and Marsha Smith periodically have worshiped with the congregation, one of two believing communities in Rehovot.

Grace and Truth Assembly began meeting in Rehovot in late 1977 and registered with the Israeli government in 1978. It is comprised of about 25 adults, most of whom are Israeli citizens.

Moaz said members of the group, including himself, have suffered physical abuse, vandalism and threats "to life and limb."

The latest of a series of incidents occurred Feb. 3 when a wheel fell off Moaz's car while he was driving slowly. The pastor said an inspection revealed some of the bolts had been removed and others loosened.

On Jan. 12, Moaz said he answered his apartment intercom at 5 a.m. to hear he "would be dealt with" unless he left town. Windows at the bottom

of his building were then smashed. Earlier he had hired a bodyguard after being shoved and receiving other threats on his life.

The city's mayor, Ezekiel Harmelech, and its leading rabbi, Simcha Kook, both condemned the November move of the congregation to its new location and the presence of believing communities in Rehovot. Their statements have been "contributing to the atmosphere of violence," Moaz charged.

The congregation received the injunction to move in December. Members are now meeting in individuals' homes while seeking a license to return to their former location.

The congregation held its first Saturday Sabbath services at that location on Nov. 24, but the following

Fetus said person

BISMARCK, N.D. (EP)—The mother of a still-born child can sue her doctor and hospital on the child's behalf for negligence, according to a North Dakota Supreme Court ruling.

The court ruled that an unborn fetus that dies before birth is a person under North Dakota Law. The ruling overturned a lower-court decision, and ordered the case back for trial.

According to the court's decision, a child "conceived but not born is to be deemed an existing person so far as may be necessary for its interests in the event of its subsequent birth." The court's 4-0 opinion also said.

Saturday Kook staged an unauthorized protest during which "he and his supporters sought to physically obstruct entrance to the building," Moaz said.

"Failing to hinder entrance, the rabbi led his people into the building, took it over and remained in possession of it for well over an hour, singing, praying and removing Bibles and hymnbooks which were later found trampled upon in the street."

Moaz continued, "The police were called as soon as the demonstration began. In spite of the fact the station is only 200 yards away, it took them well over half an hour to arrive."

"Upon arrival, the chief of police talked privately with the rabbi and then, without consulting us, allowed him to address his supporters for (Continued on page 8)

Indian church turns flood into blessing

TULSA, Okla. (BP) — The rains came down and the floods came up, as the children's song says. But Bowen Indian Church in Tulsa, Okla., was "built upon the rock" so it stood firm.

The building suffered, but the "church" is rebuilding from a May 28 flood which rose five feet in the auditorium, warped pews and piled them against the door alongside the pulpit, pushed out walls, soaked the preacher's library, ruined two buses, and left mud everywhere.

But Pastor Ira Pisachubbee calls the flood a blessing because, in the rebuilding, the church is expanding its facility which had been bursting with people.

The church had grown from 40 in Sunday School when Pisachubbee became pastor in September 1980 to a regular 130-150 attendance. The rebuilt sanctuary will seat nearly 300.

The church is buying surrounding land and is talking about building a new facility.

"If we really want to see something done, this is the time to do it," Pisachubbee told his congregation recently. "I don't ever want us to slow down or stop. I just want us to keep going because there are a lot of people that aren't saved yet that need to be saved."

Pisachubbee thinks big. He was pastor of an Anglo church in Oakhurst for 13 years before coming to Bowen, his first Indian pastorate.

"Many Indian churches feel like they can't do it because they've never tried," says Pisachubbee, a Choctaw. "I've always felt anybody can do anything they want to."

Many people helped Bowen Church recover from the flood. It received \$9,000 from state and national Southern Baptist agencies. Others responded by donating an organ and supplies destroyed by muddy water. The church still needs office equipment, a bus and a van.

Although most of Bowen's members are employed, Indians as a group in Tulsa and the state are among those in the worst economic condition.

BSSB OKs editorial guides on women's ordination

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board adopted editorial guidelines concerning ordination of women, affirmed the actions of President Lloyd Elder in dealing with critical concerns about board products and employees and elected two veteran employees to department management posts.

The agenda of the two-day semi-annual meeting Feb. 5-6 was crowded with business items as the trustees also adopted a three percent increase in church literature prices effective April 1986, authorized an increase in the formula for state convention support, and heard a report on 1983-84 from Elder.

Don Early, 49, was elected manager of the newly created financial and technical services department, effective March 1. A 26-year employee of the board, Early has been manager of the investment office since 1979.

Joe Denney, 46, was named to manage the telecommunications department formed Oct. 1, 1984. Denney, a 23-year employee, has led telecommunications work since its inception at the board in 1982.

After one hour of debate, the proposed editorial guidelines on ordination of women were adopted by a vote of 43-20.

Overall, the guidelines specify giving "clear support to basic Christian and Baptist beliefs" while dealing "factually and fairly with differing points of view among Southern Baptists."

The guidelines emphasize "ordination of deacons and ministers is a matter completely under the authority of the local congregation" and the board will "continue to affirm and encourage the biblical and historic contribution of women to the cause of Christ."

Acknowledging differences of opinion exist among Southern Baptists concerning ordination of women, the guidelines state that in church literature and Convention Press products, "the issue will be dealt with factually and fairly with neither point of view being ignored or disparaged."

The guidelines were adopted after a proposed amendment failed by a vote of 32-26 which would have prohibited any stand for or against ordination of women in any church literature or Convention Press product. The amendment was proposed by Ned Mathews, pastor of Parkwood Baptist Church, Gastonia, N.C.

Roland Maddox, a layman from Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., said the guidelines give equal treatment to opposing views when "I believe most Baptists are opposed to the ordination of women."

Elder said the board "will not become an endorser, advocate or disparager" of views concerning ordination of women. "If these guidelines are established, our editors and writers will conform to them," he said.

In the final action of the meeting, trustees adopted without opposition a motion expressing confidence in Elder's handling of critical concerns and affirming support of the "Baptist Faith and Message."

The action followed a presentation by Elder the previous day in which he outlined a plan of action for responding to critical concerns.

Elder reviewed three recent illustrations of critical letters he has received in which the writers had also sent copies to each trustee. He said the incidents raise three important questions: "What, if any, impact should critical correspondence have on the agenda of trustee meetings? How should the president respond to critical concerns? and What is the commitment and practice of the president and trustees regarding Holy Scripture?"

One incident Elder cited was correspondence from Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, Dallas, in which he questioned whether a commentary on the book of Joshua by board employee Trent Butler adheres to the guidelines of the "Baptist Faith and Message." The commentary was written by Butler while he was teaching at Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon,

Switzerland, as a Baptist foreign missionary and was published in 1982 by Word, Inc., Waco, Texas.

Elder said he acknowledged Patterson's first letter which he received Jan. 10 and which Elder said was based on second-hand information. Elder promised Patterson in his response of Jan. 14 to look into the matter since he was not familiar with the book in question. Elder received a second letter from Patterson dated Jan. 25, with copies to each trustee, in which Elder said Patterson criticized his alleged inaction concerning the matter.

"In 15 short days he thrust the issue upon the trustees as if all the facts were known and the time for decision had already come," said Elder. "The urgent concern of Brother Paige Patterson is receiving the careful consideration of the president of the board. But the president of this board must not act irresponsibly based on incomplete information."

On the one hand, said Elder, "we should not allow each meeting to be dominated by correspondence concerning critical concerns." However, on the other hand, "neither should we be silent because it would tend to isolate trustees from the president."

In a related matter, Larry Holly, a physician from Beaumont, Texas, introduced two motions at the close of the meeting. The first motion, referred to the Plans and Policies Committee for further study, called for more stringent guidelines concerning biblical content of materials published by Broadman Press and specified all Broadman products on the market be reviewed and any found in violation be withdrawn.

A second motion which was defeated by a wide majority would have instructed the president of the board to apprise trustees of any questions concerning board products or employees and of his plan of action for responding to the questions.

In other business, trustees authorized the creation of a special ministries department to include black church relations, special education and language publishing. Revisions of pro-

gram statements for the board's 17 programs were adopted along with changes in the formulas for support for state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Support to the state conventions will be increased gradually over the five-year period 1985-90 as part of the board's commitment to Bold Mission Thrust, with earliest increases going to work in newer convention states.

In his report of progress during the first year of his administration, Elder emphasized, "As far as I'm concerned, the single most burning issue at the Sunday School Board is the authentic success of Bold Mission Thrust. Bold Mission Thrust is a relationship we have to Jesus Christ. Bold Mission Thrust has been bedrock to the Sunday School Board in the last year."

Among contributions Elder cited included adoption of guidelines for treatment of the millennium in literature, participation in the denomination's study of Baptist work in Canada, launching of Baptist Telecommunication Network, and commitment to a strategy for language publishing.

Trustees and the administrative staff of the board individually committed themselves to participation in

Planned Growth In Giving, a 15-year plan for increasing Southern Baptist giving to support Bold Mission Thrust.

Trustee chairman John Bryan, a pathologist from Bluefield, W. Va., said, "Bold Mission Thrust will be little more than a catchy slogan unless it is immersed in bold praying and supported by bold giving."

Bryan was reelected to a second one-year term as chairman.

Linda Lawson writes for the Sunday School Board.

Israeli congregation . . .

(Continued from page 7)

another 10 minutes before leaving."

Moaz said pickets appeared outside the gate to the new location the following week. Persons seeking to enter the building were harassed and occasionally restrained. Moaz complained the police rarely came when called.

On Dec. 8 a well-publicized and licensed demonstration was held and a number of believers again were not allowed to enter the building, even though police were present, Moaz said.

Jonathan Tsvi, a lawyer for the Civil Liberties Association in Israel, observed the demonstration and expressed dismay at the lack of response by police.

That evening protesters threw stones at the building but the police said they were "too busy to come," Moaz said.

Smith is Southern Baptist press representative in Israel.

Lottie reports . . .

Bethany Church, Calhoun County, went over its Lottie Moon goal on the first Sunday of the offering emphasis. The goal was \$2,250. The church gave \$5,359 to the foreign mission offering. Bobby J. Cook Jr. is the pastor.

Sunrise honors WMU pioneers

Sunrise Church, Carthage, honored four women on Sunday, Feb. 10, who were its pioneers in Woman's Missionary Union.

The WMU at Sunrise was organized in 1953. Four who helped to organize it, and who have been active in it through the years since, are Mrs. Irma Thornton, Mrs. Ben Walton, Mrs. Mazie Wilcher, and Mrs. Lena Beckham.

The church recognized these four on Feb. 10, and presented corsages to them. Mrs. Marie Brantley is the WMU director; Alton Hodnett is the pastor.

Just for the Record



First Church, Pascagoula, broke ground Jan. 20 for a new east wing addition. Pictured, left to right, are Robert Lynn, Jr., Ray Ford, Henry Torjusen, M. H. Travis, Peggy Wilkinson, J.

H. Simpson, W. J. McKlesky, Dennis Johnsey, pastor, E. J. Smith, Peggy Saliba, Mitchell McNabb, Walter Smith, and Edna Langworthy.

Ridgecrest Church, Hattiesburg, held a note burning ceremony in October 1984, on homecoming day, to signify that the church's debt to First Magnolia Savings & Loan was paid in full. In a recent letter to the churches of Lebanon Association, Ridgecrest Church, (Cecil Walters, pastor), expressed appreciation "for your prayers, love, and financial support during our financial needs in the past years."

David Meece to be in Tupelo concert

Calvary Church, Tupelo, will present David Meece in concert on Saturday, March 2, at 7 p.m. in the Tupelo High School Civic Auditorium.

The tickets will sell for \$6 in advance or \$7 at the door.

The concert is sponsored by Calvary's On Track Youth Ministries and the Calvary Youth Council.

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Devotional

The love of God for God's sake

By Gayle Alexander, pastor, First, Tupelo
Luke 10:27



The 'love of God for God's sake' goes far beyond both 'the love of self for self's sake', and 'the love of God for self's sake', which we have written about earlier. Considerable growth has taken place with the development of love on this level. It comes when a Christian realizes that God has beauty and value inherently, without any thought of utility, that is, seeing God as simply one who is to meet his needs. The nature of God is love, goodness, grace, etc., and he is worthy to be loved simply because of his person. What a splendid expression of Christian faith when one has grown to the point of 'loving God for God's sake.'

May I illustrate this in the family? For instance, a wife in the home would like to know she is loved, not for what she can do for the family; cooking, house cleaning, etc., but she wants to be loved for who she is as a person. Children in the home want to be loved for no reason other than who they are, sons or daughters. Personhood is affirmed when others love with no ulterior motives in mind.

To love a person solely for the contribution that person can make is to place him under a terrible burden of having to earn love. Again, one of the worst judgments that could be placed on a member of the family is to feel that one has to perform in order for his family to love him. Children, husbands, wives, all need to be affirmed as persons of worth apart from having to earn their right to be loved.

To bask in the presence of God with delightful joy, with no ulterior motives in mind, represents genuine growth in love. It demonstrates a giant step forward out of selfishness into maturity.

This kind of love could be described as 'gift' love. It is love that seeks to create, not to acquire. The focus is on giving and not getting. It is akin to the love that God has for humanity. God's love is complete 'gift' love. God does not have needs, and therefore, it is impossible for men to minister to needs in God. Furthermore, God is continually seeking to do for men, to bless men, and to affirm men.

'To love God for God's sake' produces genuine strength of character in a person. One is empowered to continually serve the Lord regardless of whether things go well or not. For Job to say: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him" is 'love God for God's sake.'

Following fire, Presbyterians meet with Baptists in Biloxi

On Saturday night, Feb. 2, a fire destroyed the office and educational buildings of First Presbyterian Church, Biloxi. The sanctuary received heavy smoke and water damage. The next morning approximately 200 of their members met in the facilities of First Baptist Church.

A week later, arrangements were made for the Presbyterian congregation to move into the activities building at First Baptist for their usual Sunday services during the clean-up and rebuilding program.

Frank Gunn, First Baptist pastor, stated that a beautiful spirit of cooperation and helpfulness has been

exhibited by all. "The Adult I Department has been relocated from the Activities Building, a joint child-care program has been planned, and work days have provided additional parking for the larger numbers. I am proud of our people for accepting this as ministry in action rather than magnifying our inconveniences. I'm grateful we can help our friends at First Presbyterian," said Gunn.

This was a midnight fire which reportedly was started from a heater vent. Five fire trucks responded in 27 degree weather, but the fire had already spread so far that only the sanctuary could be saved.

MC "Music in the Chapel" to be presented Feb. 24

The third concert of the Mississippi College "Music in the Chapel" Series will be presented Sunday afternoon, Feb. 24, at 3 p.m. in Province Chapel with both the Cantata and Concert choirs, plus orchestra, participating. The series commemorates the 400th anniversary of the birth of Heinrich Schutz, and the 300th anniversary of both George Frederic Handel and Johann Sebastian Bach.

The concert will open with two motets by Bach, "O Jesu Christ, Mein's Lebens Licht" (O Jesus Christ, My Life and Light), and "Lobet denn Herrn, alle Heiden" (Praise the Lord all ye nations).

The second section of the concert will be one of the less well-known instrumental suites, the No. 2 in b-

minor, for flute and strings. This is a multi-movement work that treats the flute part as a solo instrument with string accompaniment, in the concerto style. This work will be played by the Jackson Symphony/Mississippi College String Quartet, featuring flautist Sybil Cheesman.

Handel was commissioned to write eight anthems for the Duke of Chandos. These works form an important part of the Anglican liturgy. "O Sing Unto the Lord" is No. 4 of the series, and is scored for three-part mixed choir, orchestra and soprano and tenor soloists. Mittie Smith of Clinton and Jerry Nance will be the soloists. Directing will be Frank Stovall, head of the Music Department and professor of music.



Mrs. Inez Crawford Montgomery of Memphis is pictured with her husband, Vertis Montgomery. They are standing by a portrait of her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Crawford, in the prayer room of Concord Church, Tippah County. The prayer room has been named in honor of the Crawfords. He was formerly a pastor at Concord.



Concord dedicates prayer room in memory of Joseph Crawford

Concord Church, Tippah County, celebrated its centennial recently, and dedicated a prayer room as a memorial to one of its former pastors, the late Joseph H. Crawford, and his wife.

Excail Burleson, pastor, welcomed those attending the centennial celebration on Nov. 25, 1984. Ted Ledbetter read the church history. W. B. Colter, former pastor at Concord, delivered the centennial address.

The morning message was a taped retirement sermon preached by

Joseph H. Crawford on his 90th birthday.

Special music was presented by Robert Walker, another former pastor at Concord, and Clifford Smart. Lunch was served in the fellowship hall.

During the afternoon session, a prayer room was dedicated as the Crawford Memorial Room, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Crawford. The history of "Brother Joe's" life was told by Harold Kuykendall. Robert Walker preached the dedicatory message. The Crawford Brothers Quartet sang.

Staff Changes

Bobby Burt has accepted the call as associate pastor of Cason Church, Monroe Association. He is a graduate of Mississippi State and has attended Mid-America Seminary, Memphis. He is the former pastor of Bethel Church, Aberdeen. His ministry at Cason began the first of January. Wayne



Burt Vines is pastor.

Trinity Church, Northwest Association, has called David Woods as pastor. He is a student at Mid-America Seminary.

Walter L. Mantooth, assistant pastor of Robinson Street Church, Jackson, has accepted a call to be pastor of Naomi Church, Lafayette, Ga.

Bobby J. Cook Jr. is the new pastor of Bethany Church, Calhoun County.

First Church, Pontotoc, has called David Prevost as minister of music. He will be moving there from a similar position at Twelfth Street Church, Gadsden, Ala., to begin work March 3. Prevost and his wife, the former Laura Bingham, are Mississippians and both are graduates of Mississippi College. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. They have two daughters.



Prevost

First Church, Ocean Springs, has a new minister of activities and youth. He is David Grayson.

David Perry has resigned the pastorate of Easthaven Church, Brookhaven.

Piave Church, Greene County, has called as pastor Ronnie Skipper, who was pastor in Buckatunna.

Barton Church, George County, has called Jimmy Preachers of North Brewton, Ala., as part-time minister of music and youth.



Tom Daniel, a Jackson native and formerly minister of youth, Alta Woods Church, Jackson, has accepted

a call as minister of youth/recreation at First Church, Ada, Okla. He is presently a student and director of campus recreation at New Orleans Seminary and will graduate

in May. He and his wife, Lisa, have one son, Bryan. The pastor at First, Ada is Charlie Baker.

Old Hebron Church, New Hebron, has called Clyde E. Pullen as pastor. Pullen, his wife, Janie, and three children: are moving from Pickens. Kenneth Crosby had been serving as interim pastor.

First, Starkville, has called Jeff Powell as minister of youth. He goes from Pinelake Church, Brandon, where he served in a similar position.

State Line pays tribute to life of deacon

Morgan E. White, deacon at First Church, State Line, died on Jan. 27. Funeral services were held Jan. 29.

First Church, State Line, and the pastor, Danny W. Rogers, on Feb. 4 adopted a resolution of appreciation for the life and service of Mr. White.

The document stated, in part, that "Morgan E. White, beloved Christian gentleman, a member, co-worker, and deacon of this church, was loved and respected by his family, membership of this church, and by all who had the privilege to meet him."

"He was an active member of the Baptist work through participation in Bible study and worship services. For 50 years he was a dedicated and faithful member of this church, and he was able to express his warm and glowing personality, bringing glory to his Lord, and joy to those who counted him a friend."

John Alexander's mother dies

Mrs. C. S. Hodge, mother of John Alexander, director of the Stewardship Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, died Feb. 13 in North Carolina, after a lengthy illness.

Funeral services were held Friday morning, Feb. 15, at 10 a.m. at the Garrett Funeral Home, Waynesville, N.C. Other survivors include one daughter.

Parkway Church, Jackson County, has called Albert Wilkerson from Tylertown as pastor.

Mohoba Church has called Herman J. Rouse as pastor.

Franklin Creek (Jackson County) has called Tom Green from Chestborough, La., as pastor.

Thomas Purser has resigned the pastorate of Hopewell Church, Copiah County.

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Passion for evangelism took Hastey around world

By Mary Jane Welch

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—For Ervin Hastey, evangelism is a passion.

Seeing this gentle man "catch fire" behind a pulpit is convincing evidence he means it when he says preaching and teaching have brought him more "just pure enjoyment" than anything else he's done in more than 40 years in the ministry.

What his oldest son calls his "magnificent obsession with seeing men and women gain entry to the kingdom of God" has fueled a drive which has prompted more than one supervisor to urge him to slow down.

This January, Hastey finally took their advice, and his doctor's, and retired several months before his 65th birthday. He had worked with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board 32 years.

Americans used to the flamboyant style of some American evangelists might underestimate the effectiveness of someone as quiet and self-effacing as Hastey. But under his leadership Mexican Baptists adopted daring new evangelism methods and saw their evangelism and church growth statistics surge upward. Baptists in Panama hadn't started a church in six or seven years when he arrived there. That soon changed.

It was that record, plus some evangelism consulting he had done as a furloughing missionary, which that convinced the Foreign Mission Board to ask him in 1977 to join the home office staff and counsel Baptists worldwide on evangelism and church growth.

His success in working with world Baptists may come as much from his skills in cross-cultural communication as from the teaching, preaching, promotional and organizational skills he feels the Lord has given him.

Ironically, he didn't recognize his skill for cross-cultural communication until he'd been doing it for years. As a late-night planning meeting in Hong Kong wound down, David Wong, a former president of the Baptist World Alliance, looked across the table and said to Hastey, "Brother, has anyone ever told you that you have a special gift of God for cross-cultural communication?" Hastey had never thought about it.

But others had. His son Stan, associate director of information services for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, says his dad always counted others as better than himself and considered himself a true partner with the people he worked with.

Hastey admits he adopted the "heart language" of the Latin culture and found leaving it traumatic. "We met together, we planned together, we prayed together, we would go out and try to rent a building and be rejected together," he says. One senses he still longs for the warmth and enthusiasm for evangelism he found among Latin Christians.

Perhaps his skill in training others in evangelism through the years stems partly from his personal identification with his learners. "When I was saved at the age of 15, I was just

a country kid," he says. "I was ignorant about more things than I knew anything about."

But his pastor's wife, who led him to the Lord, didn't leave him that way. She began training the young man in his new faith. When he felt the call to preach at 16, her husband set aside an hour each Saturday to teach Hastey how to teach the Bible, how to pray, and how to witness.

In that light it's not surprising that Hastey considers his greatest contribution to Baptist work in Mexico, where he spent 22 years, to be his training of Baptist leadership in "the fine arts of evangelism."

Hastey says his native Oklahoma was his training ground for evangelism and cross-cultural communication. One experience as a young associational missionary was especially pivotal. Though Hastey



HASTEY RETIRES — Ervin Hastey retired from his post as evangelism and church growth consultant for the Foreign Mission Board in early January, but he plans to continue his commitment to evangelism through intercessory prayer, occasional trips for the Foreign Mission Board and involvement with small churches in the Richmond, Va., area. Hastey was asked to join the Foreign Mission Board's home office staff because of his record in leading Baptists in Mexico and Panama in evangelism and church growth during his 25 years as a missionary. (BP) PHOTO By Joanna Pinneo

counted an Indian as one of his two best friends in high school, he never thought about crossing cultures to witness until he began planning an association-wide youth revival.

After he blanketed the area with promotion, he realized the Cheyenne Indians living nearby were the only people who wouldn't feel naturally included in the invitation. He and his wife, Ruth, went to the chief and asked if they could send several cars to bring the Indian young people to the

revival. The chief agreed.

That led to a Vacation Bible School under the trees on the reservation, then an adult Bible class, then a revival which resulted in 11 baptisms and a new church.

The excitement Hastey felt from cross-cultural evangelism helped move him and Ruth toward foreign missions. They arrived in Richmond for appointment expecting to go to Japan, but the area secretary they would work under had noticed in Hastey's materials a deep, abiding interest in evangelism. In Japan, he feared, they might be absorbed into an educational institution. He suggested they talk to the secretary for Latin America.

Everett Gill told them an association on the southwest coast of Mexico was on his heart. For 30 years, the area had been without a Southern Baptist representative although they asked for one year after year. After praying and talking late into the night, the Hasteyes changed course.

In Mexico Hastey soon was teaching a little bit of everything and preaching all the time—both in churches and in unreached, out-of-the-way places. Hastey estimates he preached an average of five times a week throughout his missionary career.

He was asked to lead the evangelism committee for Mexican Baptists and to begin teaching at the seminary. While there, Southern Baptist colleague Roy Lyon asked him to go to Piedras Negras to help make arrangements for Mexican Baptists' first city-wide evangelistic crusade. The week before the crusade was to begin, Lyon, ill with a liver ailment, asked Hastey to replace him as crusade director.

About 250 people became Christians during the crusade and Mexican Baptists were exhilarated by the openness they found when they visited homes to witness and invite people to services—something no one had tried before in Mexico.

Hastey decided to try the same thing in his association. But Baptists there ran into roadblocks. First no one would rent to them. When they finally rented a building, despite a regulation against open-air meetings, Catholics rented the building next door and aimed loudspeakers right at the building.

The city's mayor came to the rescue by asking the Catholic bishop to call off the opposition. He backed up his words with two truckloads of armed soldiers to protect the Baptist meeting.

The two success stories showed Mexican Baptists they could do more than they had dared or even imagined. With the Torreon crusade in mind, they elected Hastey full-time evangelism director and embarked on a five-year evangelism push which sent their statistics for church growth soaring.

Mary Jane Welch writes for FMB.

Names in the News

A reception was held Feb. 10 in the honor of First Church, Kosciusko, to honor W. Levon Moore, who is celebrating his tenth anniversary as director of missions for Attala Association, and Mrs. W. Levon Moore, who has for ten years been organist of First Church, Kosciusko.



Phil Smith, right, was ordained to the gospel ministry, Jan. 13, by Clarke-Venable Church, Decatur. The pastor, Gus Merritt, left, preached the ordination sermon. Smith was presented the certificate of ordination and a copy of the Thompson Chain Reference Bible, New International Version. He is the son of Gerald (a deacon at Clarke-Venable) and Mae Smith. He is completing his college degree at Clarke College, campus of Mississippi College. He is married to Anita Carlisle Smith and is pastor of Midway Church, Newton County.

Sandersville Church licensed Phillip Swindall into the music ministry on Jan. 20. Gary White, a close friend of Swindall, read scripture. Tony Gordy, music minister, presented Swindall with a pulpit hymnal. Lowrey Sumrall, deacon chairman, presented a certificate of license. H. D. Swindall, Phillip's father, and pastor, preached the licensing sermon. Phillip is a student at William Carey College and is majoring in church music.

Beulah Church, Myrtle, ordained Sammy Hood and Alan Cousar on Jan. 27 as deacons. Tommy Snyder, Beulah pastor, issued the charge to the church, and Kara Blackard issued the charge to the candidates.

Book Reviews

IT'S FRIDAY, BUT SUNDAY'S COMIN', by Anthony Campolo; Word Books, 1984; 120 pages; hardback, \$6.95.

Anthony Campolo is a bald-headed, middle-aged Italian Baptist preacher turned sociologist who is capturing the imagination and interest of young people and adults alike throughout America. He is witty, intelligent, biblically informed, and able to expose the weaknesses and exploit the strengths of sociology and the other social sciences.

This book is an edited transcript of several messages which Campolo has delivered in recent months. Using psychology, sociology, personal experience, and the Bible Campolo seeks to demonstrate how Jesus answers our need for emotional well-being, self-esteem, love, purpose, hope, and a sense of the supernatural.

Campolo knows how to get down where people live. He is especially skillful in communicating with young people. This book and Campolo's other writings as well will be greatly appreciated by pastors, ministers of youth, and those who work with youth in Sunday School or other church related programs.

Campolo is destined to become a leading, evangelical speaker and author. — Reviewed by Alan Day, pastor, First Church, McComb.

MORE THAN EARTHLINGS, by James B. Irwin; Broadman Press, 1983; 95 pages; hardback, \$5.95.

Colonel James Irwin was the eighth person to walk on the surface of the moon. On the Apollo 15 mission, July 26 through August 7, 1971, he served as lunar module pilot.

His journey to the moon had a tremendous impact upon his life. "I am now more than an earthling, because I have walked on the moon. Being on the moon had a profound spiritual impact upon my life. Before I entered space with the Apollo 15 mis-

sion in July of 1971, I was a lukewarm Christian, to say the least! I was even a silent Christian; but I feel the Lord sent me to the moon so I could return to the earth and share His Son, Jesus Christ." (page 1) The message that Colonel Irwin wants to communicate to his readers is that each of them can also be "more than an earthling."

Irwin is not a very good writer. His chapters read more like notes from speeches that he has given rather than well-thought-out sections of a book. The 46 brief chapters actually read more like daily devotions. But Irwin is definitely a man with a message, and the message comes through despite his unpolished style.

Irwin sees in all of his experiences spiritual lessons and truths. Representative sections deal with worship, incarnation, pride, creation, faith, fear, prayer, purity in heart. Preachers will find several good sermon illustrations in this book. — Reviewed by Alan Day, pastor, First Church, McComb.

Missionary News

Gerry Odom, missionary to Taiwan, has completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 427, Taipei 100, Taiwan ROC). Born in El Dorado, Ark., she lived in Smackover, Ark., Washington, Miss., and Alvin, Texas, while growing up.

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Baptists mobilize to relieve five flooded Brazilian states

By Mike Chute

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (BP) — Brazilian Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries have started relief efforts in five heavily populated Brazilian states where month-long tropical storms have left at least 229 people dead or missing and an estimated 80,000 others homeless.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has released \$4,000 to help storm victims. Missionaries say more money may be requested, but note Brazilian Baptists in the area are providing most of the aid.

Flooding of the Paraiba and Doce Rivers have affected all five states in south central Brazil, where 40 percent of the nation's 130 million people live. The tropical rainstorms have triggered floods and landslides that have destroyed houses, roads and bridges, causing millions of dollars in damage. Mile-long stretches of two important north-south highways are caved in and landslides cover railroads at several points. Many of the region's bridges are washed out.

Many Baptist churches have reported some water damage. In addition to Foreign Mission Board funds being used to aid flood victims, Baptist churches all over the region have sent clothes, blankets, medicine, food, and money.

Robert Erwin, disaster relief coordinator for Southern Baptist missionaries in south Brazil, said missionaries haven't yet asked for more relief funds because flooding is "hitting our stronghold of Baptist work" and the churches there "get with it

without asking for funds."

Three Brazilian Baptist pastors are coordinating relief in the hardest-hit state of Espirito Santo. One thing Baptists can't do is "go in and lavish money," warned missionary Kent Faris, who is based in Espirito Santo. He said Baptists have been trying to face the crisis with local resources. But Faris said he had received \$2,000 in Southern Baptist relief funds to help where local efforts fall short.

Federal officials have estimated crop losses now amount to \$50 million.

Food supplies are also threatened because vital transportation lines are cut from hard-hit regions to other areas of Brazil.

Much of Brazil depends on this region for its primary source of food. Missionaries fear other parts of the country not directly affected by the flooding will soon feel its effects because needed supplies can't be transported out of flooded areas.

Mike Chute is Southern Baptist missionary press representative in south Brazil.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Feb. 25 Workshop on Video Production Techniques; Mississippi College, Clinton; 6:30-9:30 p.m. (DBS)
- Feb. 26 Workshop on Video Production Techniques; FBC, Laurel; 6:30-9:30 p.m. (DBS)
- Feb. 27- March 1 Directors of Missions Program Interpretation Meeting; Camp Garaywa; 3 p.m., 27th-Noon, 1st (PD)
- March 1-2 State Instrumental Festival; Mississippi College, Clinton; 6 p.m., 1st-4 p.m., 2nd (CM)
- March 1-3 Acteens Queen's Court; Camp Garaywa; 5 p.m., 1st-Noon, 3rd (WMU)
- March 2 Kindergarten/Day Care Clinic; Broadmoor BC, Jackson; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (CAPM)



Senior adults honor pastor

By Gracie Pearl Dansby

Commemorating the beginning of Rex Yancey's fifth year as pastor of First Baptist Church, Quitman, the Senior Adult Club presented to him and his wife, Ellen, a "personality" quilt on Jan. 29. This handmade quilt in the Maple Leaf pattern bears the names of 105 senior adults who either made squares, embroidered names, or contributed toward expenses of material. The Yanceys also received a quilt display rack, made and given by W. C. Dansby.

The occasion for the presentation was an arts and crafts show where the array of items on display was indicative of the many talents among the club membership.

Sardis will dedicate sanctuary

Sardis Church, Rt. 4, Morton, will dedicate its new education building on Feb. 24. The new addition consists of five classrooms and two restrooms. The dedication will be at 1:30, following morning worship and lunch.

Billy Ballard, director of missions, Smith Association, will give the dedicatory address. W. D. Kirk, White Oak Church, will lead the dedicatory prayer.

The Building Committee consists of the board of deacons, Alfred Sullivan Sr., chairman. T. W. Henderson is pastor.

Revival Dates

First Church, Lexington: Feb. 24-27; Anis Shorrosh, evangelist; noon meal and service, Mon., Tues., and Wed.; Sunday at 11 a.m.; nightly at 7. (Shorrosh, an evangelist who preaches around the world, was born in Nazareth. He fled the Arab-Israeli war to become a refugee in Jordan, and later came to the U.S. He went to college in Mississippi).

First Church, Biloxi: Feb. 24-27; Earl Craig, First Church, Jackson, evangelist; Gary Anglin, First Church, Pascagoula, directing music; weekday services at noon and 7 p.m.; Frank Gunn, pastor.

Thursday, February 21, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11

capsules

Caribbean Baptists pray for revival

BARBADOS — Caribbean Baptists attending a MasterLife workshop knelt and prayed that God would use them to start MasterLife groups in their churches to trigger spiritual revival. "The Caribbean is one of the few places in the world which has never had a sweeping revival," said John Hilbun, Southern Baptist missionary to Barbados. He and more than 50 other missionaries, national Baptist leaders and students attended the workshop in Barbados. MasterLife is a Southern Baptist discipleship training program.

200-voice choir sings

NEW ORLEANS — A 200-voice choir under the direction of composer Buryl Red with the narration of writer Ragan Courtney will be featured in a special performance of the musical "Beginnings" Feb. 28 at New Orleans. The presentation will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the seminary's Roland Q. Leavell Chapel. The concert is free.

Kingsley to lecture

NEW ORLEANS — Gordon Kingsley, president of William Jewell College, and a graduate of Mississippi College will deliver a special series of Preaching Lectures at New Orleans Seminary Feb. 26-March 1.

Kingsley's topic for the four lectures will be "Literature and the Vision of Preaching." Each will be delivered at 10 a.m. in the seminary's Roland Q. Leavell Chapel, 3939-Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans.

Women train

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala — More than 80 women received short-term intensive theological training during the annual "Feminario" in Guatemala City. "Feminario" was begun in 1980 to train pastors' wives and other interested Guatemala Baptist women who would otherwise have no opportunity for formal Bible teaching.

Baptists gain

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — Though Catholics remain the largest religious group in the newly-elected 99th Congress, now in session, Episcopalians, Methodists, and Baptists registered the largest gains in the 1984 congressional elections, according to a biennial survey by Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

The new congress has 142 Catholics (a gain of one), 76 Methodists (a gain of three), and 67 Episcopalians (a gain of six). Fourth-place Presbyterians held their own with 56 seats, while fifth-place Baptists increased their numbers from 46 to 49. The number of Jewish members of Congress remains unchanged at 38. There are 23 Lutherans (down two), and 22 from unspecified Protestant denominations (down one). The United Church of Christ has 14

members in Congress (up one), 12 are Mormons (no change) and nine are Unitarian-Universalists (down one).

In all, 21 faith groups are represented in the new Congress, compared with 25 in the 98th Congress. Only three members are unaffiliated with any religious groups.

Reagan picks 700 Club co-host

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (EP) — Ben Kinchlow, vice-president of domestic ministries for The Christian Broadcasting Network, and co-host of the nationally viewed "700 Club" television program, has been appointed to the 15-member Presidential Advisory Council on the Peace Corps. The council was formed by executive order in March, 1984, to advise the President and the Director of the Peace Corps on promotion of the purposes of the Peace Corps.

Is this the most?

RIO DE JANEIRO — Joao Filson Soren completed 50 years as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rio de Janeiro in January.

He has announced his retirement for March 31, 1985.

Soren served as president of the Baptist World Alliance 1960-65.

Vatican issues ultimatum

VATICAN CITY (EP) — Responding to an abortion broadside published in the New York Times by pro-abortion priests and nuns, the Vatican has issued an ultimatum, demanding that signers of the advertisement publicly retract their positions, or face expulsion from their religious orders.

The ultimatum applies to 24 nuns and as many as 20 priests who were among the 97 people signing the abortion statement. The Vatican demand is based on Canon Law, which also states that a person who procures an abortion is to be automatically excommunicated, the Roman Catholic Church's most severe punishment.

The statement, published as a full-page paid ad in the Oct. 7 New York Times, claimed that a diversity of opinion regarding abortion exists among committed Catholics, and said "there is no common and constant teaching on ensoulment in Church doctrine, nor has abortion always been treated as murder in canonical history."

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By W. Levon Moore
John 12:20-33

This lesson is drawn from scriptures relating events from the last week of our Lord's life on earth. Jesus had come to Jerusalem to observe the Feast of the Passover. As usual, he was guest in the home of his friends Mary, Martha and Lazars. Following a supper, at which Jesus was anointed with a precious ointment by Mary, there was much controversy concerning what some of the disciples considered a great waste. Jesus commended Mary's act of devotion and considered it a prelude to his anointing for burial.

As Jesus made his way into Jerusalem on the following day, multitudes took palm branches and went forth to meet him, crying, "Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord" (v. 13). The religious leaders were greatly disturbed that their efforts to dissuade others from following Jesus had apparently failed. In their desperation they declared, "... behold, the world is gone after him."

At this junction, certain Greeks among those who came to the feast approached Phillip, a disciple of Greek descent from Bethsaida, and said, "Sir, we would see Jesus" (v. 21). Jesus' reaction to this development may be described as a prophecy, a process, a prayer, and a pronouncement.

I. A prophecy (v. 23)

The events of recent days, together with the far-reaching implications of this expressed desire of non-Jews relating to Jesus' mission, caused our Lord to declare, "The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified." Thus he seemed to prophesy the immediacy of his death and resurrection.

II. A process (v. 24)

Using a familiar illustration from the world of agriculture, Jesus set forth a significant spiritual principle. He said, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." The grain must die in order to live. Applying that principle to his own mission, he outlined the necessity of the process by which he must die and be planted in the earth in order to bring forth the fruit of eternal life.

III. A prayer (v. 28)

With a greatly troubled soul which struggled with his reluctance to die, Jesus recognized that he could not pray to be delivered from the experience of death. In fact, he acknowledged that for this cause he had come to his hour. This was the climax of his mission to earth. The brief but meaningful prayer was "Father, glorify thy name." In total submission to the will of God, he desired above all that the Father might be glorified. The prayer was audibly answered with a voice from heaven saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."

IV. A pronouncement (vs. 31-32)

After declaring that judgment had now fallen upon the world, and that the prince of this world would be cast out, an obvious reference to the ultimate defeat of Satan, Jesus pronounced both the method and purpose of his death. In the phrase, "If I be lifted up," he foretold his death by crucifixion. His statement, "will draw all men unto me" encompasses our Lord's vision of a world-wide ministry of reconciliation between lost sinners and a loving saviour.

Jesus came to give life to the world. He enunciated the principle that life could not be experienced apart from death. His death must occur before his resurrection to a glorified life could become a reality. He demonstrated the principle of "through death to life" in his own crucifixion and resurrection.

This principle also must operate in the life of the born-again believer. The process of the new birth gives new life to the child of God. This implies that the old life must be put to death. Paul set forth this principle when he wrote, "I am crucified with Christ: Nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me..." (Gal. 2:20a).

It is eternally true that one must die in order to live.

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The essential message of this entire narrative is embodied in the promise of Jesus in verse 25. This is the sixth great "I am" of Jesus, which John has recorded and surely it is one of the most dramatic and stupendous of all of his many I-am claims. As in other such cases, the construction is emphatic, "I alone," or "I and no other."

"He who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live" (v. 25). In this statement, "die" refers to physical death and "live" refers to spiritual life. One may experience physical death, but because of his faith identification with Jesus Christ, he has entered upon a spiritual life which transcends death. Lazarus apparently had believed in Jesus; he had experienced physical death; nevertheless, he still lived spiritually.

"Whoever lives and believes in me shall never die" (v. 26). In this statement, "lives" refers to physical life and "die" refers to spiritual death. The one who lives physically and believes in Jesus Christ has already entered upon a spiritual life which guarantees that he will never experience spiritual death. The Christian already has eternal life. It is not some future hope but a present reality. The mere accident of physical death does not change that. Even though Lazarus had died physically, he continued to live.

Power to meet needs

By Bill R. Baker
Luke 8:22-56

Jesus taught his disciples in a roving school, and any place could become a classroom. The subject matter in Luke 8 has to do with the power of Jesus to meet needs and the classroom is on the sea and by the sea. The Sea of Galilee, sometimes called the Sea of Tiberias and the Lake of Gennesaret, is only about 13 miles long and seven miles wide. However, the location of the lake makes it subject to sudden storms as the cool air from the uplands rushes down through the Jordan Valley.

Sudden changes on the Sea of Galilee illustrate how sudden changes may occur in life (vs. 22-25). There are times when all things seem to be as the calm sea and then suddenly, without warning, the storm rushes in. Jesus joins the disciples for a voyage across the sea, and, as often happens in life, there "comes down a storm of wind on the lake." The disciples, rather than allowing faith to take command of the situation, turned to the command of fear. These evidently believed in the power of Jesus to save their souls, but when the storm arises they cry out as if all were lost. If Jesus has power to grant salvation then he surely has power to grant safety in the storm.

Life, like the Sea of Galilee, may be calm one moment and boisterous the next. However, with the coming of the storm, the Christian should not cry out in despair, but exercise faith in him who is not only Saviour, but also Creator. After all, creation obeys the Creator!

Arriving on the other side of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus encounters a man from the country of the Gadarenes (vs. 26-40). Jesus' response to this person illustrates his power to deal with human nature. The case presented here is a critical one; however, if Jesus can deal with the most critical, he can deal with any. Epitomizing the plight of human depravity, the Gadarene wore no clothes, lived in a cemetery, and cut himself with stones. Erroneous thinking had resulted in erroneous actions. Society had sought to cope with his problem by binding him with chains and fetters (v. 29) but that failed. The depraved nature of man and the erroneous thoughts of man cannot be changed until he is brought to the feet of Jesus.

One of the most inspiring scenes in the Bible is presented in v. 35, where the redeemed Gadarene is "sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind." Jesus has the power to

Power over death

By James F. Yates
John 11:24-27; 38-44

Jesus had spoken these words in reply to the request of Martha. She had heard that Jesus was coming and had expressed regret that Jesus had not been there during Lazarus' illness and had kept him from death. Her further statement implied that even now Jesus might secure the return of her brother. To develop her faith Christ assures her that her brother will rise again, but this is of little comfort because she interprets this in terms of a distant resurrection. Then comes this tremendous statement of Christ in verses 25 and 26. Can Martha accept such a marvelous revelation? Is she ready to believe such a glorious promise? When Jesus asked her, "Do you believe this?" (v. 26) she could only respond in a broad general confession of her faith, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God" (v. 27). To accept that truth and all that was involved in it meant that whether she understood or did not understand it, she believed his word.

Concerning the actual raising of Lazarus, three things leap out at us. First, the command of Jesus to "take away the stone" (v. 39). Could not One who was about to raise the dead to life take care of this lesser matter himself? That is not the question. Christ will not and does not do for us what we can and should do for ourselves. He would do what only God could do, but he employed man's power to the limit of its ability.

Second, there is the protest of Martha, fearful that something dreadful was about to happen. For her brother had been buried four days and she assumed that by now there would be a stench (39). There is a Jewish tradition to the effect that upon death the soul hovers around the tomb for three days hoping to re-enter the body, but on the fourth day it departs. There is no reason to suppose that Martha believed this and certainly Jesus did not, but it was generally believed by the Jews. Jesus timed his arrival in Bethany for the fourth day after death. He knew what he would do, but it must be done in a way and at a time

change a world that has lost its concept of modesty. He has the power to relocate man from a cemetery and realign him with associates who are alive unto God. He also has the power to change one's attitude toward himself. A person will do harm to himself because he has a low value of himself. Jesus has the power to confront sinful man and change his thought patterns. In fact, if a person be in Christ, he is a new creation.

In the roving school of the Son of God, the disciples, in their classrooms on the sea and by the sea, learn that Jesus Christ has power over nature and human nature. He not only has power to calm the sea; he has power to conquer the unredeemed, leaving them clothed and in a right mind.

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when everyone would have to admit that Lazarus was really dead and that Jesus had raised him from the dead. In reply to Martha's protest Jesus reminded her of his promise. He wills to raise Lazarus and do it for God's glory (v. 40).

Third, and most of all, our eyes come back to Jesus. With the miracle still unaccomplished, still indeed to be begun, with the dead man still dead, Christ lifted up his eyes and heart to heaven in thanksgiving for what he knew God would give him. He prayed aloud because he wanted the people to hear him talking to the Father in order that they might know that the Father had sent him (vv. 41, 42). And then Jesus cried with a loud voice for Lazarus to come forth (v. 43). Jesus' loud voice was not for the dead man's benefit, but for the benefit of those about him. He wanted them to see that Lazarus came forth in response to his call. And someone has suggested that had he not called Lazarus by name, all the dead would have come forth.

Immediately Lazarus came forth wrapped in the grave clothes appropriate for burial in Jewish customs. Jesus ordered the people to free Lazarus from these tokens of death. Again Jesus permitted men to do what they were capable of doing.

Was this raising a resurrection? No, since Jesus himself was the "first fruits" from the dead. Resurrection means that one is raised from the dead to die no more. This does not mean that he was any less dead. It simply means that he did not experience a resurrection in the sense that Jesus did or that will occur when he comes again.

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Obedience to God is the most infallible evidence of sincere and supreme love to him. — Nathaniel Emmons

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